Poor quality of food in Mid-Day Meal Scheme

†598. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor quality foodgrain was supplied to schools under Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that because of substandard foodgrain, many children have taken ill in several States on consuming meal given under this scheme; and

(c) if so, the action taken to remove these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Only one State namely Jharkhand has reported that there were reports from the District Superintendents of Education of Garhwa, Palamu, Dumka, Pakur and Bokaro district about poor quality foodgrains supplied by Food Corporation of India (FCI). That Government had raised the matter with Senior Officers of FCI to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains. The District Collectors and District Superintendents of Education have been directed not to lift substandard/low quality foodgrains.

(b) State-wise details of children taken ill is given in the Statement (*see* below).

(c) It has been stipulated in National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, 2006 Guidelines that:-

(i) FCI will issue foodgrains of best available quality which will in any case be at least of Fair Average Quality (FAQ).

(ii) Appointment of a Nodal Officer for each State to take care of various problems in supply of foodgrains under MDM Programme.

(iii) The District Collector/CEO of Zila Panchayat will also ensure that foodgrains of at least FAQ are issued by FCI after joint inspection by a team consisting of FCI and the nominee of the Collector and/ or Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat, and confirmation by them that the grain conforms to at least FAQ norms.

(iv) FCI will keep samples of such foodgrains supplied by it for future verification and analysis; this will be available in case of any complaints regarding the quality of foodgrains supplied.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise details of children taken ill

Sl. No.	State	Children affected
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	85 children were reported ill in 2006. Inquiries were conducted by the State Government, which has reported that in cases where it was proved that the children had taken ill due to negligence of the implementing agencies, such agencies were replaced. Appropriate warning has also been given to the school authorities to be vigilant.
2.	Karnataka	The State Government has reported that 1242 children were taken ill in 34 schools. The Cooks who were found to be negligent were removed and new Cooks appointed.
3.	Maharashtra	The State Government has informed that 208 children fell ill in four districts (temporary uneasiness and vomiting sensation). After enquiry in Jalgaon district, an FIR was filed.
4.	Orissa	The State Government has informed that 39 children of Laxman Nath Primary School of Balasore District fell ill as the cook had mistakenly used Ammonium Sulphate considering it as edible salt. The cook was removed and the headmaster of the school was placed under suspension. In another incident, 15 children of Madhupur Primary School of Cuttack District had fallen ill. The State Government has reported that the headmaster was placed under suspension.

1	2	3
5.	Rajasthan	The State Government has informed that 10 children were reported ill in Rajasamend district. Appropriate steps were taken by the State Government to terminate the services of the cook and transfer the headmaster and teachers concerned. In another incident, 61 children were affected in Karauli district. State Government has reported that disciplinary action has been initiated against the Block Development Officer, Additional Chief Executive of Zila Parishad and School Headmistress and the Teacher.
6.	Tamil Nadu	The State Government has informed that 77 children were taken ill in Muttavakkam Panchayat Union Primary School of Kancheepuram district. Forensic test revealed that the toor dal used for cooking contained fungus, the presence of which rendered the food unfit for human consumption. The Nutrition Meal Organiser, Cook and Assistant were placed under suspension for negligence.
7.	Uttaranchal	The State Government has reported that 2 children of Gandhinagar Primary School of Nainital District fell ill due to consumption of stale food. The Headmistress of the school was suspended.
8.	Uttar Pradesh	The State Government has reported that 282 children in four districts were taken ill. The State Government investigated complaints and it has been reported that First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged in two cases with the police and appropriate action has been taken.
9.	West Bengal	The State Government has informed that 60 children of Ramachandrapur Primary School

of Nadia District fell ill on 28.2.05 due to food poisoning as the food got infected by insecticide spread by an owner of the banana plantation firm located close to the school. An FIR has been lodged against the owner of the plantation firm.

In another case, 85 children of Metyadahar Primary School of Paschim Midnipur District fell ill on 4.5.05 after consumption of mid-day meal. The State Government had reported that the incident was inquired and no criminal intension or willful misdeed was found.

Effect of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

599. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the implementaiton of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, out of school children have nearly been halved in certain States while the position is still grim in the backward States, *i.e.* Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Orissa, and

(b) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to help these backward States both financially and physically to improve their position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The number of out of school children reported by States in March, 2006 is estimated at 70 lakh In Bihar, Chattisgarh and Orissa, the out of the school children reported in the same period show the position as 23.2 lakh, 1.68 lakh and 6.03 lakh respectively. These three are priority States in so far as financial allocations under SSA is concerned, as well as received regular capacity buildings from natioal resource teams.

Future of Central Tibetan schools, administration

600. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to close down